(E C & I 809)

Chapter 1 Summary (Program Evaluation)

-Why do I need to evaluate? What are the best methods of evaluating a program or an organization? What is one of the most valuable evaluation methods that the administrator can use to evaluate the staff performance within my school?

-The chapter describes an evaluator as having many roles to perform as. The evaluator must be someone you can trust. The evaluator may be a critical friend, teacher, facilitator, and etcetera and this individual cannot be scared to judge and make critical remarks in order for a program or organization to improve.

-The chapter one text describes that evaluations are beneficial to any organization because it describes how our programs are running? “what improvements to make and whether to continue on with the program?”

-The chapter discusses the various evaluation methods such as the research verses evaluation and its differences. Research is when we find out facts and collect data to find out about a theory. The Evaluation finds out about the merit of a program and whether it should be continued or improved.

-Informal versus formal evaluation: “What their differences are and how useful they are individually or combining them? The informal process is done without strategic measurements which often lead to unsatisfactory results and can have faulty judgments. Whereas, the formal evaluation includes structure but these two can run correlations to each other.

-There are two other types that are mentioned which are: Formative and Summative. The formative one is done by collecting information, interviews, and focus group. This type of evaluation is done to see how well the program and how to improve it. It is on-going throughout the year or seasonal depending on which program is getting evaluated. The Summative is done at the end of a program. This is done to find out if the program is sustainable or to make decisions and judgment. I believe that the formative evaluation would be very cooperative for our organization because it is ongoing.

-The other ones that chapter one text describes are the External and Internal Evaluation. The external evaluators are the outsiders that come in and evaluate a program or organization. The external evaluator does not anyone they are getting information from and usually seen as an expert. The external evaluator is also familiar and knowledgeable about other methods and is experienced.

-The Internal Evaluation is done by employees/employers within the organization and are usually very familiar with the inside scopes and cannot really tell the differences and how to improve their organization or program.

-Therefore, it can be done in combination with each other and both sides give their opinions and input. This way, the external and internal evaluators can see both sides of what is being evaluated and make a difference in their daily working environment.

-Evaluation is crucial part of any program or organization because the stakeholders want to find out where to improve, sustainable and how well the people are working together.

Chapter One Response

Throughout Chapter one text reading, it explained what evaluation meant and how different organization can benefit from their evaluations. There are many ways to evaluate a program but the stakeholders can decide what they want and which method to utilize. In this text, evaluation is defined as: “is determining the worth or merit of what is evaluated.” It can refer to a program, organization and agency. Evaluations assist in identifying what programs are working, its cost, benefits, making improvements and which are running poorly.

I thought that there were so many ways to evaluate and how does one pick over the other one. As I read on, I realized that the stakeholders or the organizations can figure out what it is that they want evaluated within the program Utilizing the formative evaluation which work best in my organization because it is ongoing. It includes needs assessment, monitoring and the outcome. This is ongoing and each of us can do our own evaluating at the end of the month and have discussions. This would help us professionally. It would improve in our teaching practice/ environment plus with our colleagues and administrations. Evaluation is a means of telling an organization that there has to be improvements or changes made but again, how do we know if the evaluation is even working?

As I finished reading the text about all the different methods and criteria of evaluating, page 27 states: “One of the biggest mistakes of evaluators is to promise results that cannot possible be attained.”

After reading this part, I asked myself, “How useful are all those evaluating methods?” So are evaluators wasting their time? I believe that evaluation can work if it is done consistently, structured and planned. We can’t expect to see results when we do it once and put it aside. It needs to be thoroughly and with consistency. Evaluations takes time and we cannot see results instantly but overtime.

I really like the different evaluation methods we can utilize in our organization or program. We can choose from various methods, not only one but we need to plan it out and know what we are doing. Evaluations are great tools and it is something I can relate to in my teaching. If I did not evaluate students in my program and did not have anything to go by, “how would I know what grades to give them?”

I need their assignments in and they need to participant in my physical education program so I can do my assessment based on what they give me.   
I can understand why corporate programs/organization needs to be evaluated. If they did not get evaluated, I am sure they would not know how they are progressing with other major companies. Evaluation is an important tool in our society. It is important because it provides information for program improvement, working to better society, encouraging meaningful dialogue among other many diverse stakeholders, and providing oversight of programs. If everyone cooperated and did evaluations, we would not have so many issues or problems within our society. But this is not the case, there are programs that fail since the stakeholders or managers have no clue to what was going on. If all programs were evaluated by one of the methods I read about, I am sure that the stakeholders or managers would identify the problem before it fails.